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County Borough of Walsall

1941



1941



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1941



JAMES A. M. CLARK,
M.D., Ch.B. D.P.H.



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1941. The report has been prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and like its predecessors is considerably curtailed.

The health of the Borough remained satisfactory during the year, the incidence of infectious disease has also been satisfactory, measles although prevalent has been of a mild type and the mortality has been low. The general death rate shows a decrease over that of the previous year and is well below that of the great towns and of the country as a whole.

The Infantile Mortality rate of 51.42 per 1,000 births constitutes a record for Walsall ; it is the lowest yet recorded and is well below that for the great towns and the country as a whole.

A considerable amount of time has been given to the supervision of our milk and other food supplies in order to ensure that proper standards of cleanliness and purity are maintained. The quantity of milk now consumed per head is greater than in pre-war days and the larger dairymen have many difficulties to face, such as difficulties of transport, inadequate plant which it is impossible to implement or to replace and labour of a less efficient type, with a consequent greater liability to contamination and adulteration.

The Ministry of Food has done good work and although we get complaints from time to time as to the quality or quantity of certain foodstuffs—it is the privilege of the Englishman to find fault with any Government department—little real complaint can be made either as to the quality or quantity of our food. We are well fed. Infant Welfare Workers with many years experience of child welfare work are struck by the fine appearance of the children they see at the Welfare Centres, due, in their opinion, to the fact that children are being more sensibly fed, their mothers being unable to get so many of those “titbits” which they have been accustomed to give to their children, but which were not good for young children. Our medical colleagues confirm this and state that apart from a proportion of children who suffer from Vitamin ‘C’ deficiency the health of the children generally is remarkably good.

The Civil Defence Casualty Services have been maintained and we are grateful to the many volunteers, doctors, nurses and personnel of all ranks who have so well maintained their keenness and their efficiency.

We have lost more members of our staff during the year; to all those who are left and who have given such devoted and untiring service my grateful thanks are due.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman and members of the Health, Maternity & Child Welfare, and Education Special Services Committees for their kind interest and consideration.

I am,

Yours obediently,

JAMES A. M. CLARK, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1942.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

1. General Statistics.

Area in Acres	8,780
Population (At Census 1931)	103,059
Number of Inhabited Houses	{	At	1931 Census	23,311	
Number of Families				24,953	
Population 1941 (estimated)	..	..	..	..	103,370
Number of New Houses erected in 1941	..	..	..	32	
Number of Inhabited Houses 1941	..	..	..	27,942	
Number of Persons per House	..	..	..	3.7	
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£547,971
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	£2,090
Population per Acre	..	..	..	..	11.8

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Number of Births Registered	{ Legitimate	M.944—F.876—Total 1,820—Total	
	{ Illegitimate	M. 29—F. 24—Total 53—1,873	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .	18.12	
Number of Deaths (M. 662, F. 549)	.. .. .	Total 1,211	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .	11.72	
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—			
From Puerperal Sepsis	.. .. .	1	
From other Puerperal Causes	.. .. .	3	
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (live and still) Births	.. .. .	2.14	
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	.. .. .	96	
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births (Births 1,867)	.. .. .	51.42	
Infant Mortality (legitimate infants) per 1,000 births	.. .. .	48.50	
Do. (illegitimate infants) do.	.. .. .	150.94	
Death Rates per 1,000 Population, from—			
Respiratory Tuberculosis	.. .. .	0.76	
All forms of Tuberculosis	.. .. .	0.83	
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	.. .. .	1.62	
Cancer	.. .. .	1.51	
Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases (Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup)			
	.. .. .	0.13	

Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Children under 2 years of age, per 1,000 births	..	..	..	5.89
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	..	..	..	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	3
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	1

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

161 inquests were held in the Borough during the year (94 males and 67 females).

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ordered by Coroner	109
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SUMMARY OF INQUESTS.

	M.	F.
Death by Murder	—	—
„ Suicide	7	2
„ Manslaughter and Infanticide	—	—
„ Self-induced Abortion	—	—
„ Excessive Drinking	—	—
„ Want of Attention at Birth	—	—
Accident or Misadventure	46	37
Death from Natural Causes	39	27
Stillborn	—	1
Open Verdicts	2	—
Inquests adjourned	—	—
	<hr/> 94	<hr/> 67
Inquests on children suffocated whilst in bed (accidental)	—	—
Inquests on bodies of newly born children	1	3

Vital Statistics.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General is 103,370 an increase on that of the previous year.

The Birth Rate is 18.12 as compared with 14.2 in England and Wales as a whole, and 14.7 for the large towns.

The Death Rate shows a decrease being 11.74 as compared with 12.9 for the country as a whole and 14.9 for the large towns.

The Infant Mortality Rate calculated this year, not on the actual number of births but on a figure supplied by the Registrar General, is 51.42, as compared with 61 in the previous year. The rate for the country as a whole is 59, and for the great towns 71.

There were 4 Maternal Deaths during the year.

The Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis shows a slight increase, 0.76 as against 0.71 per 1,000 of the population. On the other hand the death rate from other Respiratory Diseases shows a considerable decrease, being 1.62 per 1,000 as against 2.14 in the previous year.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH, 1941

As furnished by the Registrar-General

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Sex	All Ages	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
ALL CAUSES	.. .. .	M. F.	662 549	58 38	13 16	14 14	81 72	199 121	297 288
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.. .. .	M. F.	2 7	1 1	1 3	2 —	1 —	— —	— —
3. Scarlet Fever	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
4. Whooping Cough	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Diphtheria	.. .. .	M. F.	1 5	— —	1 3	2 2	— —	— —	— —
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	.. .. .	M. F.	47 32	— —	2 1	2 1	28 21	16 9	2 1
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	.. .. .	M. F.	3 4	— —	— —	1 2	1 1	1 1	— —
8. Syphilitic Diseases	.. .. .	M. F.	4 1	— —	— —	— —	1 1	3 1	— —
9. Influenza	.. .. .	M. F.	17 12	— 1	— —	— —	1 2	8 —	8 9
10. Measles	.. .. .	M. F.	1 2	— 1	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis, etc.	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
12. Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
13. Cancer, Buc. Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	.. .. .	M. F.	1 9	— —	— —	— —	1 1	1 4	— 4
14. Cancer, Stomach and Duodenum	.. .. .	M. F.	9 15	— —	— —	— —	— 1	4 10	5 5
15. Cancer of Breast	.. .. .	M. F.	10 10	— —	— —	— —	1 —	5 —	4 —
			— 10	— —	— —	— —	— —	8 —	2 —

Infectious Disease.

Apart from Measles which has been prevalent throughout the whole of the year, the incidence of infectious disease has been low ; there has been an increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria, and a decrease in Scarlet Fever. Fortunately the type of Measles has been mild, there being 3 deaths in the 1,349 cases notified.

There were 117 cases of Diphtheria notified, with 9 deaths as against 57 in the previous year with 5 deaths. As will be seen from my report as School Medical Officer, the number of children immunised during the year was 3,116. Of that number 883 were children under the age of 5 years which represents less than half the number of infants born annually. A number of children have been immunised privately but the proportion is much too low. Appeals are constantly being made to parents to have their young children immunised, facilities being provided at each of our Welfare Centres and at the School Clinic, Littleton Street, and a small number are immunised at each centre each week, but the majority of parents remain indifferent. No case of Diphtheria occurred in a fully protected child during the year.

There were 165 cases of Scarlet Fever notified as against 190 in 1939. There were no deaths from the disease.

There were 25 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever notified with 9 deaths.

Ten cases of Typhoid Fever were notified. The disease was of a mild type.

206 cases of Whooping Cough were notified with 1 death, and 201 cases of Pneumonia with 62 deaths.

565 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year, 235 of these being from other districts 217 cases of Diphtheria were admitted, there being 17 deaths, also 186 cases of Scarlet Fever, 21 of Measles, 12 of Typhoid Fever and 134 of other diseases.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS

Table showing cases admitted, deaths, case fatality rate, duration of stay, and percentage of cases isolated.

Diseases	No. of cases notified	No. of cases admitted			Deaths			Mortality rate per 1,000 cases admitted	Total No. of patient days in 1941	Average duration of stay (weeks) of patients discharged or died	Percentage of notified cases isolated
		Walsall	Other Districts	Total	Walsall	Other Districts	Total				
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	117	110	102	212	9	8	17	80.2	8512	5.5	94.0%
+ Contacts	—	18	3	21	—	—	—	—	703	4.0	—
Scarlet Fever	165	104	82	186	—	2	2	10.8	5967	4.7	63.0%
Measles	1349	20	1	21	—	—	—	—	437	3.0	1.5%
Erysipelas	37	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	13	1.0	5.4%
Enteric Fever	10	10	2	12	—	—	—	—	393	4.7	100.0%
Other Diseases	—	66	45	111	9	6	15	135.1	1537	2.1	—
Total	1678	330	235	565	18	16	34	60.2	17562	4.4	—

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1941

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT												TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD									Total Deaths		
	At All Ages.	At Ages—Years											Bloxwich Ward	Leamore Ward	Harden Ward	Birchills Ward	Hatherton Ward	Paddock Ward	Bridge Ward	Pleck Ward	Caldmore Ward		Palfrey Ward	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65												65 and upwards
Small-Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera (C.) Plague (P.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	117	1	4	4	6	16	48	17	5	12	3	1	—	8	10	30	6	14	10	6	8	14	11	9
Erysipelas ..	37	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	7	7	14	6	5	5	12	3	2	2	5	1	2	2	—
Scarlet Fever ..	165	—	2	10	17	17	69	27	8	13	2	—	—	20	12	38	11	6	8	14	20	21	15	—
Typhus Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	10	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	2	2	—
Measles ..	1349	53	130	160	183	187	588	31	6	8	2	1	—	158	104	333	78	35	86	78	245	87	145	3
Whooping Cough ..	206	16	30	38	33	32	54	1	—	1	1	—	—	7	13	21	2	3	18	6	54	32	50	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	2	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	1

Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	25	1	1	2	1	2	7	2	1	4	2	1	—	4	3	8	1	—	1	2	1	1	4	9
Poliomyelitis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	..	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		105	—	—	—	—	1	1	11	37	19	31	5	7	9	20	11	8	6	7	19	9	9	79*	
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	..	22	—	1	1	1	2	2	6	3	4	1	—	1	2	6	—	—	1	2	3	3	4	7*	
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia		201	16	9	10	8	2	18	6	20	29	39	22	12	25	56	12	15	11	6	27	16	21	86*	
Malaria	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Polio-Encephalitis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	..	2,252	91	177	225	249	260	791	94	58	123	61	90	33	226	184	528	125	83	145	126	384	185	266	195

*These deaths do not necessarily refer to the cases notified.

MANOR HOSPITAL.

The following statistics as to the work of the Manor Hospital have been supplied by Mr. E. S. Clayton, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Ed) Medical Superintendent.

Statistics for the year ending 31st December, 1941

Total admissions	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,417
Patients in hospital on 1st January	..	..	..	..	..	..	242
Total number of deaths during the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	312

Accommodation.

Men	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Women	..	..	..	..	..	..	147
Children	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
							<hr/> 333 <hr/>

plus 111 Emergency beds

Average number of beds occupied	..	..	..	..	..	210
Highest number of beds occupied	..	1.3.41	..	..	..	245
Lowest number of beds occupied	..	25.12.41	..	..	..	203
Surgical operations	..	..	..	..	..	1,476
Dental operations	..	..	..	..	..	584

Maternity Department.

Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	615
Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Doctor present at	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65
Forceps	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Caesarean sections		..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Undelivered—nil.								

Massage and Electrical Department.

Treatments given :—

Massage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,699
Electrical	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,952
Radiant Heat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,489
Ultra-Violet light	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,852

X-Ray Department.

Number of films taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,901
Number of screen examinations	..	..	..	..	..	..	517
Pathology and Bio-chemistry specimens sent to Birmingham University, etc	..	..	..	..	..	..	666

Out-patients and Casualties.

Total attendances	..	..	..	..	..	47,163
Fractures (ambulatory)	..	..	..	..	..	169
Fracture Clinic attendances	..	..	..	..	..	1,425

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

At both the Maternity Block, Manor Hospital, and at the Maternity Hospital, Bloxwich, another very busy year has been experienced.

641 confinements took place at the Manor Hospital and 260 at the Maternity Hospital, Bloxwich, 124 in private nursing homes and 1,004 on the district.

The Ante-natal Clinics have functioned normally throughout the year, 855 mothers attending the extern clinics and 582 the Ante-natal Clinic at the Manor Hospital. 44 ante-natal medical examinations were made by doctors on mothers referred to them from the clinics or from Municipal Midwives.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres have been well attended : the total attendances being 37,953 as against 36,053 in the previous year.

Table showing particulars of the cases dealt with at the Maternity Block, Manor Hospital, and at the Maternity Hospital at Bloxwich

DETAILS OF CASES	MANOR HOSPITAL	MATERNITY HOSPITAL
Number of Cases admitted during 1941	641	260
Average duration of stay	13.0 days	12.9 days
No. of Cases delivered by—		
(a) Midwives	576	205
(b) Doctors	65	55
No. of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	195	38
No. of Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified ..	2	2
No. of Cases of pemphigus neonatorum ..	Nil.	Nil.
No. of infants not entirely breast fed while in the Institution	96	26
No. of Cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum ..	1	Nil.
No. of Maternal Deaths	Nil.	1
No. of deaths—		
(a) Stillborn	26	11
(b) Within 10 days of birth and their causes, and the results of the post-mortem examination, if obtainable	† 10	* 6

† 8 died from Premature Birth, 1 from Hæmorrhage Neonatorum and 1 from Congenital heart disease.

* 4 died from Premature Birth, 1 from Congenital Occipital Encephalocele and 1 from Melaena Neonatorum.

**Table showing number of Midwives practising in the Borough
and cases attended during 1941**

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Totals
No. of Midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1941—			
(a) Employed by the Council ..	14	9	23
(b) In private practice	1	3	4
	15	12	27
	Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Institutions	Totals
No. of cases in the Borough attended by Midwives—			
(a) Employed by the Council—			
(i) As Midwives	904	781	1,685
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	100	120	220
(b) In private practice—			
(i) As Midwives	—	53	53
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	—	71	71
TOTALS { (i) As Midwives	904	834	1,738
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	100	191	291
	1,004	1,025	2,029

Attendances Registered at the Infant Welfare Centres.

CENTRE	Under 6 months		6—12 months		1—2 years		2—5 years		Total		New Cases
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Pool St. ..	1606	574	1259	363	1017	357	2022	665	5904	1959	214
Field Rd. ..	2755	823	2160	337	1520	336	3420	672	9855	2168	399
Littleton St.	2047	754	1505	386	1078	322	2080	497	6710	1959	274
Countess St.	2853	1056	2036	540	1455	395	2261	610	8605	2601	380
Ida Rd. ..	2603	925	1609	427	870	20 0	1797	459	6879	2011	313
Total ..	11864	4132	8569	2053	5940	1610	11580	2903	37953	10698	1580

A.—Number of Attendances.

M.—Number Medically Examined.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1941

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One year of age

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Deaths under One Year	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Bloxwich	Leamore	Harden	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Palfrey
Measles	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Common Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis..	11	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	2	—	1	1	2	3	—	—	2	1	—	1
Premature Birth ..	29	16	6	1	2	25	4	—	—	—	3	2	7	1	3	1	3	5	1	3
Congenital Malformations; Birth Injury; Infant Diseases ..	19	10	3	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
Tubercular Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ..	21	1	—	1	—	2	9	4	3	3	2	2	6	3	—	3	—	—	—	5
Other Causes ..	15	4	2	—	—	6	5	1	2	1	1	1	5	1	—	—	4	1	2	—
TOTALS ..	96	31	11	3	3	48	26	9	8	5	10	9	23	9	5	5	10	9	4	12

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate, 1,820; Illegitimate, 53. Nett Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 88; Illegitimate Infants, 8

TUBERCULOSIS.

84 patients were admitted to Pelsall Sanatorium during the year and 46 to Goscote. There were 19 deaths at Pelsall and 15 at Goscote.

105 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year as against 98 in the previous year and 22 of other forms as against 17.

428 new patients were examined at the Dispensary as against 329, 103 new cases of Tuberculosis being diagnosed compared with 101. 16.6% of the total examinations represented "contacts."

The following table shows the new cases notified and deaths during 1941.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	2	3	—	1	—	—
5—10 ..	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1
10—15 ..	1	—	2	4	1	—	1	1
15—20 ..	8	3	2	1	4	6	—	—
20—25 ..	8	11	1	1	6	6	—	1
25—35 ..	8	10	1	1	8	7	—	—
35—45 ..	14	5	—	1	10	2	1	—
45—55 ..	11	4	—	—	7	7	1	—
55—65 ..	15	1	—	1	9	2	—	1
Above 65	3	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals ..	68	37	8	14	47	32	3	4

TABLE SHOWING THE WORK OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1941.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancres		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on Register 1st January, 1941	46	31	1	—	20	18	1	10	68	59	127
Number of old cases returned for treatment or observation of same infection	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	2
Number of new cases dealt with for the first time	25	18	1	—	75	35	38	43	139	96	235
Number of new cases transferred from other centres	4	1	—	—	3	1	—	3	7	5	12
Total cases dealt with	75	50	2	—	98	56	39	56	214	162	376
Attendances—Medical examinations	1370	883	5	—	1402	532	176	394	2953	1809	4762
Irrigation, dressings	3	—	—	—	805	268	50	195	858	463	1321
Total attendances	1373	883	5	—	2207	800	226	589	3811	2272	6083
Patients admitted to hospital	—	1	1	—	1	3	1	—	3	4	7
“In-patient days”	—	6	19	—	5	56	7	—	31	62	93
Walsall persons treated at Centres in other towns	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of new cases attending during 1941—	38	—	—	—	78	—	59	—	—	—	175
Walsall	5	—	1	—	32	—	22	—	—	—	60
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			Microscopical		Others for diagnosis of Venereal Disease						
			for Syphilis	for Gonorrhoea							
Pathological Work— Specimens examined at Walsall Clinic			37	955	67						

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1941

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Seventh Annual Report, viz :— That for the year 1941, giving particulars of the sanitary administration of the Borough.

The nature of the work carried out during the year has followed largely that reported upon during the years 1939 and 1940. Every endeavour has been made to maintain the sanitary service at as high a level as possible.

The position with regard to the maintenance of satisfactory standards of repair and sanitary accommodation to property is becoming increasingly difficult, both with regard to materials and labour.

The work in connection with the inspection and supervision of food stuffs, including milk supplies, has continued to be heavy.

Mr. Victor Staniforth, a clerk, was successful in obtaining the statutory qualifications as a Sanitary Inspector, and resigned on his receiving an appointment as a Sanitary Inspector to another authority. Mr. Bernard Owen was appointed Junior Clerk in his place.

Miss Linda Spicer, Shorthand-typist, who had been in the department for two years, volunteered for service in the W.A.A.F.

The following paragraphs give a brief survey of the work which it has been possible to accomplish during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The total number of visits and inspections made to all premises for the purpose of sanitary inspection was 17,477, which together with the 6,121 visits made in connection with Civil Defence and Food Control gives a total number of visits of 23,598.

1,441 complaints were investigated, and 987 visits were made to infected houses.

395 houses were improved by repairs to the structures, 1,405 houses received attention with respect to water closet and ashbin accommodation, drainage repairs and abatement of other nuisances, a total number of 1,800 houses being improved during the year.

HOUSING.

At the 31st December, 1940, there were 500 houses in respect of which Clearance, Compulsory Purchase Orders or Individual Unfit demolition orders were operative, still in occupation. 41 of these houses were closed during the year, the families being accommodated in re-let Council Houses. The 41 families were taken from such houses as were in the worst structural condition.

At the 31st December, 1941, there remained 459 unfit houses still in occupation. A large proportion of these houses are now controlled by the Council, having been acquired under Compulsory Purchase Orders and many of them have had urgent works of repair carried out in order to maintain some degree of comfort for the occupiers.

The following list shows the progress made under the Housing Acts 1930 and 1936, to 31st December, 1941.

Houses represented as unfit	..	..	..	..	3,030
„ closed	..	..	..	..	2,449
„ demolished	..	..	..	..	2,193
No of persons displaced	..	..	..	..	10,912

The 41 houses which were demolished during the year were in such a condition that it was impossible to regard them as being suitable for emergency accommodation.

DISINFESTATION.

The Disinfestation Service had a busy year, and in addition to the treatment of furniture and effects of families rehoused from unfit houses, treatment was also able to be given to both Council and privately-owned houses found to be verminous.

The services of the department have also been widely used in respect to the steam disinfection of bedding used by Civil Defence Services and Firewatchers, and a regular service is maintained as far as possible.

OVERCROWDING.

As previously reported, it is impossible to give any reliable figures with regard to the overcrowding position. Overcrowding cases are constantly being met with but owing to the shortage of housing accommodation it is not possible to institute satisfactory measures of abatement.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. The inspection and supervision of food continues to take a great deal of the time of the Sanitary Inspectors. Slaughtering has continued at the Government-controlled slaughterhouse in Shortacre Street, although the number of animals killed and inspected was substantially less than in the previous year. A feature of the year's work has been the increased quantity of tinned foods requiring examination.

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses or parts thereof condemned, and is in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

1941

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ..	5,648	2,643	4,513	36,165	3,252
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	3	6	17	53	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1,165	875	17	1,502	65
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with all diseases except tuberculosis	20.67%	30.33%	.75%	4.29%	2.21%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	17	64	3	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	851	1,374	34	Nil	239
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with tuberculosis	15.36%	54.40%	.81%	Nil	7.34%

(Total number of carcasses examined 52,221)

Unwholesome food condemned. The following table gives details of the nature and weight of food stuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year 1941, the bulk of the food stuffs being surrendered to the Sanitary Inspectors at the time of inspection.

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat and Offals	..	..		72	14	2	2
Bacon and Ham	..	..		—	1	2	4
Pressed Beef	..	..		—	—	2	24
Tinned Meat	..	..		—	10	3	2
Skinned Rabbits	..	..		—	4	3	—
Fish	..	..	..	—	—	3	4
Mussels	..	..	..	—	3	2	8
Cauliflowers	..	..	..	2	3	—	—
Dates	..	..	..	2	—	—	—
Eggs	..	..	..	—	6	1	11
Various tinned foods		..		—	19	—	20
Total				79	5	0	19

Every effort was made to salvage for purposes other than human consumption the food stuffs condemned as unfit, subject to satisfactory safeguards as to the methods of disposal.

Ministry of Food—Food Control. With regard to the duties carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors as Food Enforcement Inspectors of the Ministry of Food, approximately 1,134 visits were made to food shops and other premises in connection with investigations. The Sanitary Inspectors have appeared at the Police Court with respect to prosecutions instituted by the Food Control Committee. 99 test purchases were made, and certain samples submitted to the Public Analyst. 364 inspections were also made with regard to licences to slaughter pigs kept on private premises.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders. The following list gives details of the results of samples of graded milks sold under licences issued under the above Orders.

Designations	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Failed
Accredited	34	28	6
Tuberculin Tested	27	12	15
Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	18	9	9
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	25	18	7
Pasteurised	94	70	24

68 samples of Pasteurised milk and 23 of T.T. Pasteurised milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test ; 66 of the Pasteurised samples, and the 23 T.T. Pasteurised samples were satisfactory ; 2 of the Pasteurised samples failed to pass the test.

An investigation was made with reference to each unsatisfactory sample, and where samples were obtained from retailers whose licensed premises were situate outside Walsall, the authorities concerned were notified as to the unsatisfactory samples.

In my reports for 1939 and 1940, it was stated that the general position with regard to milk sold under the Special Designations Orders cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory, and there was evidence of deterioration in the conditions under which designated milks were produced and sold. The results of samples taken during 1941 show no

improvement in the position, and it is a matter of some concern to the local authority. While it is appreciated that the milk producers, processors and retailers are working under difficult conditions particularly with regard to labour, strong representations have been made to the licence holders with respect to the unsatisfactory samples.

A Bottler's Licence to bottle Tuberculin Tested milk was revoked by the Health Committee during the year.

SAMPLING.

Mr. F. E. Thompson, A.R.C.S., F.I.C., submits the following particulars of the samples which have been analysed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act of 1926.

220 samples were submitted for analysis, 129 were formal samples and 91 were informal. Of these 12, equivalent to 5.45% were adulterated.

117 milks were received of which 5, equivalent to 4.27% were adulterated by the presence of the following percentages of extraneous water :—

*0.94%, 1.71%, 0.70%, 4.70%, and 2.00%

*(This was explained by the abnormal amount, 8.2% of fat present).

2 jams, 2 sugar substitutes, 1 tea, 1 milk substitute and 1 egg powder were not genuine.

8 samples were taken under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

With respect to the unsatisfactory samples of jam, action was instituted under the Jam (Maximum Prices) Order, by the Food Control Committee, and with regard to each of the other unsatisfactory samples a warning letter was sent to the vendor.

CONCLUSION.

May I again pay tribute to the continued support of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to the help and co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health. To my colleagues in the Health Department who have given unstinting service, I tender my sincere thanks.

Yours obediently,

C. A. STANSBURY, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

WALSALL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

R E P O R T
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report on the School Medical Service for the year ended 31st December, 1941. The report is considerably curtailed, and is drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Board of Education.

1. STAFF.

We were without the services of one medical officer and one dental officer for the latter part of the year, so that some curtailment of the medical and dental work was inevitable. The staff of health visitors was also under strength for the greater part of the year. Nevertheless, every endeavour was made to ensure that no school child in need of treatment was overlooked. All school entrants were medically inspected after admission to school. Frequent visits were paid to the schools by the Health Visitors, who carried out nutritional surveys of the children, referring all doubtful cases to the medical staff either at the school clinics or on their visits to the schools. Head teachers and their staffs also co-operated in selecting children for special attention and as suitable for receiving additional nourishment. We are happy to state that there is no evidence that the school population is suffering nutritionally as the result of war-time conditions.

2. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELFARE.

Dr. Adam, School Medical Inspector, in reporting on the physical and mental welfare of the children as seen by her at the school clinics or in the course of her visits to the schools, states :—

“ I have seen no evidence of marked or extensive physical deterioration in the children, and the clinic attendances show no increase of debility, anæmia, bronchitis, chilblains, or other conditions which might be due to a lower or unsatisfactory diet.

An unusually large proportion of the infant classes examined were flabby, looked below par, and had unhealthy tonsils and glands. This may have been dietetic or due to a previous measles epidemic, for many of them had had measles a month or two before examination.

A large proportion of the children have milk at school, either free or on payment, and I think there is no doubt that this has assisted in maintaining their condition. A few mothers unfortunately cut down milk or meals at home when a child has school milk, thus restoring an undesired status quo.

The necessitous children have benefitted by the free meals, and those who have been able to have meals at school when domestic difficulties have made it desirable have also benefitted, but these are only a small proportion of the school population.

Walsall so far has suffered very little from air raids, but during the weeks when alerts were frequent and shelters much used the children were temporarily adversely affected—tired, dirty, severe colds and septic sores.

The diminished convalescent home and country holiday facilities have been a hardship in many cases, but the war-time condition which tells most hardly on the children is the closing of the house with both parents working. Many children from such homes are improperly fed and supervised, unkempt and dirty, and acquiring bad and anti-social habits through running the streets.

I have had children come to the clinics acutely ill and unable to get into their own house till some time in the evening. One boy had a fractured elbow which had occurred two days previously.

There has been no increase at the clinic of cases of chorea, sleep-walking, night terrors, fits, bed-wetting or anything which one could put down to mental stress and strain. A few parents claimed that their children were terrified of air raids, or the possibility of air raids, but this usually seemed to be where the parents themselves were excitable. "The majority of parents said their children slept through alerts!"

3. INCIDENCE OF LICE.

An investigation as to the incidence of the head louse in the schools was carried out during the early part of the year.

Approximately 13,000 children were inspected by the school nurse who was specially appointed to deal with uncleanness amongst the pupils attending schools in one particular area. The result of the investigation revealed a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Of the 6,626 boys examined 5.5% had unclean heads, whilst of the 6,341 girls examined no fewer than 23% were nit-infested or had lice in their hair.

The incidence of infestation amongst the boys was as high as 21% in one school, whilst two schools had a clean bill of health. Amongst the girls the incidence varied from 41% in two schools to less than 9% ; in 15 schools the incidence was over 20%.

The results of this investigation are disturbing, although not unexpected. Experience in other fields of work, particularly hospital practice and reports from industrial sources, had revealed that the incidence of lice amongst young adult women is high, and the presence of nits far too common. This state of affairs is due in great measure to prevailing fashion ; the short crop has lost much of its popularity, the "permanent" wave, now so universal, requires "resetting" after washing, with the result that the hair is seldom washed nor even thoroughly combed. Many mothers regard the presence of nits in the hair as being not only normal but as a sign of good health. The fact that so many mothers are now out at work is another factor, as they have little time or energy after a day's work in the factory to exercise that constant vigilance on their children's heads which is so necessary.

A special report was submitted to the Education Committee, and a second nurse was appointed to deal with the particular problem of uncleanness. The two special nurses deal with all the worst schools, the health visitors dealing with the remaining schools. In addition to inspection, re-inspecting and treating the children who are the worst offenders, the two nurses also visit the mothers in their own homes and help them not only with advice but in treating the children. As a result of their efforts there has been considerable improvement in many directions, but the "black spots" are there, and relapses are not uncommon.

Dr. Adam, in dealing with this aspect of school medical work reports :—

"Cases of body lice are rare, cases of head lice are still too common. Very good work is being done by Nurse Harvest and Nurse Glover in inspecting children in school and visiting and advising the parents. Many children have improved or cleaned up and some schools have much improved their cleanliness numbers, but the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. There is a residue of families who are obdurate to help or advice and many who are very difficult to find at home.

Scabies remains a major problem. Cases come up, entire families very often, and though the majority co-operate in treatment, are cured, and return to school, there is a great loss of school time and they are succeeded by other fresh cases. 50% of the patients at some clinic sessions have been cases of scabies. Here again there is a residue of families who cannot or will not get rid of the condition. Even if they are cured and their homes dealt with by the Sanitary Department, sooner or later they turn up again with a re-infestation. Some children have been out of school almost continuously for a year. When the mother is at work she is often unwilling to follow out treatment, sometimes is infected herself and often has other workers in the house also infected.

The younger children become very backward from the prolonged absences, the older ones run riot, get out of hand and some end up in trouble with the police. The excluded children have been seen shopping, going to cinemas, serving at market stalls, and so on."

4. MALNUTRITION.

The nutrition of the school child has not been neglected, and in this connection it is interesting to note that during the year school canteen provision has been considerably extended. There are now six canteens where meals are supplied to school children. In necessitous cases, children receive their meals free ; the charge for meals for the other children—largely those whose mothers are doing war work—is 4d., which covers the cost of food only.

The number of free dinners supplied during the year was 84,494 (to 605 individual children), as against 89,012 during the previous year. The number of “ paid ” dinners supplied during the year (the first year of the operation of this scheme) was 137,788.

Parallel to this provision, the supply of milk in all schools has been continued, both free and on payment, at the special rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for one-third pint. The number of “ milk meals ” provided **free** during the year was 433,450 (to 1,775 individual children), as compared with 540,661 in the previous year, and approximately 10,000 children were receiving milk on payment at the end of the year.

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, every endeavour was made to persuade parents to have their children immunised against diphtheria, particular attention being paid to those under the age of five years. As a result of the broadcasts by the Minister of Health at the start of the campaign, and at a later date by the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, by appeals through poster, by personal talks to mothers by the medical and nursing staffs, the number of “ under fives ” immunised showed a marked increase. The number of parents who “ Don’t believe in it,” or who state that “ They look after their children ” or that their children are “ too healthy ” still remains too large. There are others who claim that it is “ God’s Will ” when their children get the disease, others who claim their intentions were good but they were waiting “ till the weather was warmer ” or some similar excuse. To such parents all appeals are of no avail, and so each year we witness tragedies in the deaths

of young children from this very serious disease. Last year there were 9 such tragedies amongst children under the age of 15 in Walsall. Not a single child who has been fully protected against the disease has died from diphtheria in Walsall since we started the immunisation of children in 1927, and there has been no case of clinical diphtheria in any fully protected child since 1937.

3,116 children were fully immunised during the year as compared with 1,141 in the previous year, 883 children under the age of 5 years, and 2,233 over that age. In addition, 1,362 children immunised in previous years were retested, 102 of these still retained their susceptibility to the disease, all but one receiving further treatment. Alum Precipitated Toxin and Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules for the older children, were used as the immunising agents.

91 children under the age of 15 were notified as suffering from diphtheria during the year. Three of these had had a partial course ; none of the others had received any protective treatment.

The thanks of the medical and nursing staffs are due to the school teachers for their helpful co-operation in this work.

61 cases of diphtheria amongst school children occurred out of a total of 111 cases notified in the borough. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 39 cases amongst school children out of a total of 58 cases notified. Four school children died.

Scarlet Fever. 92 cases of scarlet fever occurred amongst school children out of a total of 161 cases notified to the Health Department. The corresponding figures for last year were 96 and 189 respectively. The disease was, on the whole, of a mild type and there were no deaths. Scarlet fever is much less prevalent than it has been for some years and the position can be regarded as reasonably satisfactory.

Measles. Measles was very prevalent practically throughout the whole year. A total of 1,340 cases was notified in the borough, 611 of whom were school children. There were no deaths amongst children of school age

Whooping Cough. Out of a total of 206 cases notified during the year 55 occurred amongst children of school age and there were no deaths.

In addition to the above 919 cases of mumps and 560 cases of chicken-pox were notified from the schools.

6. DENTAL TREATMENT.

The following report upon the work of the School Dental Service has been supplied by Mr. N. L. Cookson, Senior Dental Surgeon:—

“ Although there has been a reduction in dental personnel since July, the annual figures show that much has been done to prevent pain, to eradicate septic foci due to dental causes, and to conserve permanent teeth.

In order to obtain the maximum result from the efforts of the remaining staff it has been found best to work according to the following principles:—

1. To maintain high inspection figures, so that organised routine work could minimise casual cases.
2. To restrict fillings to smaller cavities in permanent teeth.
3. To select the most suitable children for fillings.
4. To provide for immediate relief of pain.

During this year 12,159 children have been inspected, which means that 78% of the school population has been given the opportunity to have harmful teeth removed and have small fillings inserted in selected permanent teeth. It is a cause of satisfaction to find that, compared with 1940, there has been a 5% decrease in the number of children needing treatment.

The high inspection figure has produced a steady flow of organised routine work. This has replaced much of the unappointed casual work which proved so expensive in time. “ Time saved has been time gained,” and thus the number of extractions has reached a peak figure, namely, 15942 (teeth extracted). This steady increase in routine work has been responsible for the decrease in toothache

cases to the lowest figure on record, namely, 812 cases, a reduction of 583 cases compared with the previous year. The emergency problem has been dealt with by the only satisfactory method, i.e., prevention, and the incidence of pain has been so substantially reduced that it has not been difficult to provide for the immediate relief of pain.

The large aggregate of extractions would be a foible if conservation had been neglected, and although the time allowance for fillings has been limited by the loss of personnel, the number of fillings has increased. This has been due to the policy of selection, with a view to conserving a maximum number of permanent teeth. Fillings have been confined to smaller cavities, which have taken less time to complete, therefore, more fillings have been inserted, and, as a result, more teeth have been saved. Compared with 1940 there has been a 28% increase in number.

The selection of suitable children for filling work has undoubtedly contributed much towards the completion of 3,197 fillings. Truculent and unreliable patients have been avoided and preference has been given to children who keep their appointments regularly and show co-operation by cleaning their teeth. Special efforts have been made to re-inspect previous filling cases so that the benefit of past work should not be lost because of present neglect.

The acceptance rate this year has been 83%. This is an excellent response, and shows that the apathy of the past is giving place to enthusiasm. It is a cause for regret, however, that a reduction in staff has been necessary. To meet the demands of increasing enthusiasm the staff should remain at full strength.

During this year 147 X-ray photographs have been taken by the Radiology Department of the Manor Hospital. I express my thanks for their co-operation, which has facilitated diagnosis and aided orthodontic treatment.

In March, Mr. R. E. Morgan, L.D.S., was appointed to the staff, replacing Mr. J. K. Waterhouse, who joined the Forces. Mr. M. G. Humphries joined the Forces in July."

7. The following are the Statistical Tables required by the Board of Education :—

Table I

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1941

A. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Code Group Inspections—

Entrants 652

Second Age Group 1,180

Third Age Group.. .. . 1,598

Number of other Routine Inspections .. —
———— Total 3,430

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections 10,898

Table II.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING
THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS

Number of children inspected	A		B		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	(Excellent)		(Normal)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
3430	89	2.59	2796	81.53	539	15.71	6	0.17

Table III

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR

GROUP I—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see
Table V.)

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the
year under the Authority's Scheme 6,796

Table III—continued

GROUP II—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects, treated as Minor Ailments—Group I)

Defect or Disease	No. of defects dealt with			No. of children for whom spectacles were			
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Other-wise	Total	Prescribed		Obtained	
				Under the Authority's Scheme	Other-wise	Under the Authority's Scheme	Other-wise
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ..	398	—	398	303	—	302	—

GROUP III—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received operative treatment	87
Received other forms of treatment	—
Total number treated	87

Table IV

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of Children who were—	Totals
(a) Inspected by the Dentist :	
Routine Age Groups 4-16	11,347
Specials	812
	————— 12,159
(b) Found to require treatment	9,922
(c) Actually treated	6,468
(2) Half-days devoted to—	
Inspection	41
Treatment	946
	————— 987
(3) Attendances made by the Children for treatment	9,446

Table IV—continued

(4) Fillings—					
Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	3,128	
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	69	
				————	3,197
(5) Extractions—					
Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	3,130	
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	12,812	
				————	15,942
(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions					
					5,421
(7) Other operations—					
Permanent Teeth	}		..	..	1,039
Temporary Teeth					

Table V

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

(i) Average number of Visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses					
					20
(ii) Total number of Examinations of Children in the Schools by the School Nurses					
					71,652
(iii) Number of individual Children found unclean ..					
					7,222
(iv) Number of Children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority					
					—
(v) Number of cases in which Legal Proceedings were taken—					
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921					—
(b) Under School Attendance By-Laws					—

Table VI
BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN

	At a Public Elementary School	At an institution other than a Special School	At no School or Institution	Total not receiving suit- able Education
Blind Children	—	—	—	—
Deaf Children	—	—	—	—

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

No. of children notified during the year to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928 9

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

133 pupils at Queen Mary's High School for Girls were also medically inspected during the year. 61 as routine inspections and 72 as revisions. 9 of the pupils examined at the routine inspection were found to have some defect.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES A. M. CLARK,

School Medical Officer.

